ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5   A system for providing a user status message in an instant messaging system that permits editing of the user status message by the owner of the status message and other users, and that displays information in the status message regarding the editing history of the status message.   An edit history for each status message is provided, including a date and time stamp associated with each of a number of entries within the status message.
10   Each entry in the status message is further provided with an indication of the user that authored the entry.   The owner of the status message and users other than the owner of the status message are permitted to add entries to the status message through interfaces provided by the disclosed system. The system may further provide the ability to include links to additional information within the status message entries based on detection of
15   strings of adjacent characters having a predetermined capitalization format.